

P a t e n t   c l a i m s

1.

A method of identifying a change of an information object contained in a structured web  
5 information assembly, and a method comprising:

- a) Specifying a structured web information assembly,
- b) acquiring said specified web information assembly from a source,
- c) selecting a first information object of said web information assembly,
- d) obtaining a structure location of said selected first information object within  
10 said structured information assembly,
- e) generating by a coding method a first identifier characteristic of said selected  
first information object,
- f) reacquiring said specified web information assembly from said source,
- g) obtaining a second information object located at said structure location  
15 within said required web information assembly,
- h) generating by said coding method a second identifier characteristic of said  
second information object, and
- i) generating a change indicator if said second identifier is different from said  
first identifier.

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2.

A method for monitoring a selected first information object of a web page, comprising:  
browsing the web page and determining a first information object ID of the selected  
first information object on basis of the selected first information object itself and a web  
25 page position of the selected first information object;  
storing the first information object ID in an information object ID buffer;  
storing a URL of the web page in the information object ID buffer;  
browsing the web page corresponding to the URL stored in the information object ID  
buffer at a predetermined period subsequent to determining the first information object  
30 ID, and determining a second information object ID of a second information object at a  
web page position corresponding to the position of the selected information object, on  
basis of the second information object itself and the web page position of the second  
information object;  
comparing the first information object ID and the second information object ID; and,  
35 generating a notification of change of the web page corresponding to the URL if the  
second information object ID is different from the first information object ID.

3.

The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein determining the information object ID of the selected first information object, further comprising the steps of: :

- 5 j) determining the web page table level of the web page table containing the selected information object;
- k) setting a position and level variable to the selected object position and the web page level determined in step j),
- m) determining a web page row and column position of an information object at the position and level of the variable, and appending to the information object ID the position and level variable;
- 10 m) determining the object type of the selected information object, and if the object type is different from body, then including the steps of:
  - n) navigating in the structured information assembly to a position one level up from the current level,
  - 15 o) setting the position and level variable to the position and level navigated to in step n), and repeating the steps l) - m).

4.

20 An arrangement for detecting a web page change in a computer network comprising a server and a client, wherein:

the client comprises:

- a) a means for determining a first information object ID of a browsed web page first information object selected by a user and storing the first information object ID in a information object ID buffer;
- 25 b) a means for obtaining a time at which the first information object ID is determined and storing the time in the information object buffer,
- c) a means for obtaining a URL corresponding to the browsed web page and storing the URL in the information object ID buffer;
- d) a means for transferring the information object ID buffer contents to the server;
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the server comprises:

- e) a means for browsing the web page at a predetermined period subsequent to the time of determining the first information object ID;
- e) a means for selecting from the browsed web page a second information object at a position corresponding to the position of the first information object and determining a second information object ID of the selected second information
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object on basis of the selected information object itself and the web page position of the selected information object;

f) a means for comparing the first information object ID and the second information object ID; and,

5 g) a means for generating a notification of change of the the web page corresponding to the URL if the second information object ID is different from the first information object ID.

10 5.

A client/server arrangement in a system of networked computers for detecting a change of an information object contained in a structured web information item, said arrangement comprising:

A client means and a first web browser operating on a first computer, said client means  
15 being adapted to communicate with said first web browser, said client means being arranged to generate a first location specifying identifier characteristic of a user selected first information object included in said web information item displayed to the user means of said first web browser and to forward said first location specifying identifier to said server, and  
20 a server means and a second web page browser operating on a second computer, said server means being adapted to communicate with said second web page browser, said server means being arranged to generate a second identifier characteristic of a second information object included in the web information item at the location specified by the first identifier and to generate an indicator of change if the second identifier is different  
25 from the first identifier.